

31 December 2020

Dear Parents

Return to School – January 2021

I am sure that you have heard the announcement that the secondary school phased reopening has been delayed. In response to this, we will be following the Government phased return to school to ensure we can establish and run mass testing as described by the Government.

Phased reopening

Week commencing 4 January

- 4 January – this remains an INSET day and online Year 11 Parents afternoon/evening.
- Onsite lessons will not commence this week.
- Onsite provision will be offered only for vulnerable learners and children of critical workers where NEITHER parent can stay at home and/or work from home.
- Remote online learning will start.
- Roll out of mass testing will start for Staff, Years 13, 11, vulnerable learners, children of critical workers where neither parent can stay at home.

Week commencing 11 January

- Onsite lessons will restart for Years 13 and 11.
- All other year groups will remain accessing remote online learning.
- Roll out of mass testing will start for Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 12

Attendance

Students' attendance will be recorded through them attending online lessons. Where a student does not attend an online lesson, we will contact Parents. To help us in keeping informed please ensure you notify the absence line on 01749 813393 OR email absence@sexeyes.somerset.sch.uk if your son or daughter is unwell and therefore unable to attend their online lessons. Students will be required to attend their morning and afternoon Tutor session with their Tutor.



Pastoral support

Those students accessing 1:1 support from members of the pastoral team will receive an email from their key worker to offer virtual support during the period they are at home.

SEND TA Support

As we did in the initial lockdown, SEND TA's will attend remote online lessons to provide support for students with SEND.

Boarding Students only

Option 1 - Boarders may return on Monday 4 January from 6pm if they meet one of the criteria below:-

- (1) Are vulnerable learners
- (2) Are children of critical workers where NEITHER parent is able to work from home and evidence from both parents line manager has been received
- (3) International students who have pre-booked flight and have where necessary completed the required quarantine period upon returning to the UK.

These Boarders will be offered a test as they return to the school site and will remain in a single bubble. These students will not mix with day students and will not be allowed offsite into town and/or home at a weekend until Somerset and the county of their home address has been removed from Tier 4. Please notify Mr Kershaw **ASAP and by 9am on 2 January** if your son or daughter meets one of these criteria and will be returning to Boarding on 4 January from 6pm.

Option 2 - Boarders may return on Sunday 10 January between 4pm and 6pm if they meet one of the criteria below:-

- (1) Are vulnerable learners
- (2) Are children of critical workers where NEITHER parent is able to work from home and evidence from both parents line manager has been received
- (3) Year 13 students
- (4) Year 11 students

These Boarders will be offered a test as they return to the school site and will remain in a single bubble. Students in Years 13 and 11 will attend lessons according to their timetables. Students in other year groups will not mix with day students, and will not be allowed offsite into town and/or home at a weekend until Somerset and the county of their home address has been removed from Tier 4. Please notify Mr Kershaw **ASAP and by 9am on 2 January** if your son or daughter meets one of these criteria and will be returning to Boarding on 10 January from 6pm.

Option 3 - All other Boarders may return between 4pm and 6pm on Sunday 17th January.

Weekend arrangements will be reviewed at this point, based on the latest Government advice. We will ultimately need to ensure we are protecting the students, staff and families of Sexey's School community and therefore reducing the risk of catching and spreading COVID-19.

All Boarders are invited to bring back to school a device that they may have at home that will support them in doing remote online learning from their boarding house if required to self-isolate.

Remote Learning

You will be aware that in Mr Williamson speech he made a comment about Year 11 and 13 students being prioritised for remote online learning during the week 4 January. As yet, the Government has not provided the clarity around remote online learning for other year groups. At Sexey's we are committed to ensure no student is disadvantaged and therefore we will be rolling out remote online learning through TEAMS for all year groups as set out below. We believe all students need to access learning and re-engage with their staff and peers at this difficult time as soon as is possible, therefore students will follow their normal timetable and where a TEAMS lesson is used students will join the TEAMS lesson run by a subject specialist. Students will be required to attend their morning and afternoon Tutor session with their Tutor.

- Year 13 – All lessons online via TEAMS from Tuesday 5 January. Core PE will be a series of online challenges students can engage in.
- Year 12 – All lesson online via TEMAS from Wednesday 6 January. Core PE will be a series of online challenges students can engage in.
- Year 11 – All lessons online via TEAMS from Tuesday 5 January. Core RE will not be attended; students will have a wellbeing hour and should do something away from the screen. Core PE will be a series of online challenges students can engage in.
- Year 10 - All lesson online via TEMAS from Wednesday 6 January. Core RE will not be attended; students will have a wellbeing hour and should do something away from the screen Core PE will be a series of online challenges students can engage in.
- Year 9 – The following lessons will take place online via TEAMS from Wednesday 6 January Maths, English, Science, Drama, IT, MFL, Music, Geography, History, RE. Independent learning tasks will be set for Art, DT, Photography and students will access online help sessions during their timetabled lessons. Tasks will be set via TEAMS. PE will provide online PE challenges for students to engage with as they did in the previous lockdown.

- Year 8 - The following lessons will take place online via TEAMS from Wednesday 6 January Maths, English, Science, Drama, IT, MFL, Music, Geography, History, RE. Independent learning tasks will be set for Art, DT, Photography and students will access online help sessions during their timetabled lessons. Tasks will be set via TEAMS. PE will provide online PE challenges for students to engage with as they did in the previous lockdown
- Year 7 - The following lessons will take place online via TEAMS from Wednesday 6 January Maths, English, Science, Drama, IT, MFL, Music, Geography, History, RE. Independent learning tasks will be set for Art, DT, Photography and students will access online help sessions during their timetabled lessons. Tasks will be set via TEAMS. PE will provide online PE challenges for students to engage with as they did in the previous lockdown.

Homework

Homework will be set according to the usual homework timetable.

Headphones

If your son or daughter has headphones with a microphone, this will help with their remote learning and will reduce the distraction to you as Parents as you work from home.

IT access

The Government has again committed to IT resources being sent to schools. If you have an issue with IT at home either device wise or WIFI wise, please contact Mr Hill, Network Manager so we can look to deploy any new laptops we get to where they are most needed. Where you have no IT access or Wi-Fi access please contact Mr Phil Clackson, Assistant Head pclackson@sexey.somerset.sch.uk to ensure we provide paper based work for your son or daughter to complete during this short period. If you have issues, accessing TEAMS or Classcharts please contact Mr Hill on itsupport@sexey.somerset.sch.uk

Testing

As yet, we have not received the testing equipment but we have been informed they should be in schools from the 4 January. All Parents will shortly receive a consent form completion and return should you wish your son or daughter to take part in the testing programme. Students are required to have Parental consent in order to be tested. We have been advised that staff need no medical expertise to run the testing programme, however I have ensured we have medical professionals overseeing our testing programme. A team of staff will oversee testing who have medical experience, including our new school nurse. Students will

be asked to carry out the test themselves but with a trained staff member to support them and talk them through how to do the test. Students will also be provided with a video about how to undertake the test. The tests being used in schools requires a swab being placed at the back of the throat and up the nasal cavity before being placed in a container for analysis. As soon as I have further information about this, I will share it with you. The testing programme allows us to ensure students, who have COVID but are asymptomatic, can go home and self-isolate to reduce further spread to others, and it will also mean that close contacts of positive cases can also be tested (daily) to reduce the need for them to self-isolate. Both of these ultimately lead to less time out of school and less lost learning time.

Vaccinations

School have no further information about the national roll out of vaccinations, when we have this I will share it with you.

Support

Please can I ask for your support, I appreciate that students having a delayed and staggered start to term is not ideal and will cause Parents stress and anxiety, but please can I appeal to you to work at home where you can and keep your son or daughter at home until their allocated return date. This will allow me the opportunity to set up and run the testing programme to ensure we reduce the spread of COVID amongst our school and wider community. Thank you for your support and understanding in this. Please remember to follow the NHS advice of hands, face and space.

With kind regards



Mrs H Cullen
Headteacher